

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 6-19 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. **Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

Claims 1, 3 and 6-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen et al. (US 2003/0098829) in view of Wei et al. (US 5,723,950). Applicants kindly request reconsideration of this rejection in view of the following comments.

Claim 1 recites the features of a capacitive light emitting element for emitting light by application of a DC forward voltage, wherein the cathode is connected to the earth, wherein the anode of the light emitting element is disconnected from the earth when the DC forward voltage is applied to the light emitting element, and wherein the anode of the light emitting element is connected to the earth after the application of the DC forward voltage is stopped.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Chen and Wei do not teach or suggest the above-noted combination of features recited in claim 1.

In particular, with respect to the Wei reference, Applicants note that Fig. 1 of Wei depicts a circuit which includes a first transistor 20, a second transistor 21, a third transistor 25, an LED 11 having associated capacitance 12, and a transistor 30. As noted by the Examiner in the Office Action, the capacitance 12 is a capacitance that is associated with the LED 11, which includes internal capacitance and any capacitance in the electrical connections between LED 11 and driver 10.

As is evident from Figs. 1 and 2 of Wei, Applicants note that in order to vertically flow current I at time T_0 , that transistor 25 is turned ON, transistor 20 is turned ON (while transistor

21 is turned OFF), and transistor 30 is turned ON. This status is maintained until time T_1 . In order to sink current I up to a level to form waveform 35, transistor 20 should be turned OFF (while transistor 21 should be turned ON). At this time, if transistor 30 is in the ON condition, the charging of the capacitance 12 will be immediately discharged through the transistors 21 and 30, so that current could not increase after time T_1 as illustrated by the waveform 37 of current I_D in Fig. 2 of Wei. As such, it is evident that transistor 30 is turned OFF at time T_1 .

Thus, in Wei, because transistor 30 is turned OFF at time T_1 , Applicants respectfully submit that the LED 12 of Wei does not correspond to the light emitting device set forth in claim 1, because claim 1 sets forth that the cathode of the light emitting device is connected to the earth, and the anode of the light emitting element is connected to the earth after the application of the DC forward voltage is stopped. Accordingly, in view of the above-noted construction of the circuit in Wei, Applicants note that Wei is not capable of burning out a part of the LED 11 having a low resistance by the discharge of a residual electric charge which results in a reverse current.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Wei does not disclose, suggest or otherwise render obvious the above-noted combination of features recited in claim 1 of a capacitive light emitting element for emitting light by application of a DC forward voltage, wherein the cathode is connected to the earth, wherein the anode of the light emitting element is disconnected from the earth when the DC forward voltage is applied to the light emitting element, and wherein the anode of the light emitting element is connected to the earth after the application of the DC forward voltage is stopped.

With respect to Chen, Applicants respectfully submit that this reference does not cure the above-noted deficiencies of Wei. In particular, with respect to Chen, Applicants note that this reference discloses a current driven pixel circuit which includes transistors 31-34, a capacitor 35, and an LED 36 (see Fig. 3A). As explained in Chen, when the transistors 31 and 32 are turned on and the transistor 33 is turned off, the gate and drain of the transistor 34 are electrically connected, and the voltage Vgs is generated having a magnitude corresponding to the current through the data line and the transistor 34 (see paragraph [0009]).

In the meantime, as described in Chen, the capacitor 35 is charged and keeps the voltage Vgs thereon, whereby the voltage Vgs succeeds the data signal DS to keep the current through the transistors 33 and 34 lighting the LED 36 when the scan signal SS turns off the transistors 31 and 32 and turns on the transistor 33 to terminate transmission of the data signal Ds at the end of a scan period (see paragraph [0009]).

Based on the foregoing description, Applicants note that while Chen discloses the use of a current driven pixel circuit having a plurality of transistors 31-34 and an LED 36, that Chen does not disclose or suggest the above-noted combination of features recited in claim 1 of a capacitive light emitting element for emitting light by application of a DC forward voltage, wherein the cathode is connected to the earth, wherein the anode of the light emitting element is disconnected from the earth when the DC forward voltage is applied to the light emitting element, and wherein the anode of the light emitting element is connected to the earth after the application of the DC forward voltage is stopped.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over the cited prior art, an indication of which is kindly requested. Claims 3, 6-12 and 18 depend from claim 1 and are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

Regarding claim 13, Applicants note that this claim recites that a residual electric charge in the organic electro luminescence element is discharged after an application of a DC forward voltage to the organic electro luminescence element is stopped, the discharge of the residual electric charge resulting in a reverse current that is fed to the organic electro luminescence element through a defective part of the organic electro luminescence element.

For at least similar reasons as described above in connection with claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Chen and Wei does not teach, suggest or otherwise render obvious the above-noted features recited in claim 13. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 13 is patentable over the cited prior art, an indication of which is kindly requested. Claims 14-17 and 19 depend from claim 13 and are therefore considered patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may best be resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or to credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 23-0975.

Respectfully submitted,

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